

## Domestic Partnership-What It Means For You and Your Family

AB 25—The New Domestic Partnership Law.

*An article from the National Center for Lesbian Rights*

[www.nclright.org](http://www.nclright.org)

On January 1, 2002, same sex couples who are registered as domestic partners with the State of California gained a number of important rights and protections as a result of AB 25, a new law authored by Assemblywoman Carole Migden. If you are in a committed same-sex relationship and have not yet registered with the State as domestic partners, here are some of the rights that AB 25 will provide to couples who are registered.

### Adoption

Registered domestic partners will be able to use the same adoption procedures used by stepparents. Then both partners have a legally protected relationship to the couple's child or children.

### Health care and medical emergencies

- A partner will have the same right as a spouse to make medical decisions for her partner if the partner becomes mentally or physically incapacitated.
- The partner could also be named conservator and make legal and financial decisions for an incapacitated partner.
- If a partner is killed due to the negligence or wrongdoing of another person, her partner will be able to bring a wrongful death suit

to recover for lost financial support and companionship.

- California is amending the official forms for making simple wills to allow registered domestic partners to check a box leaving their estates to their partners. A partner will also have the same priority as a spouse in being appointed to be the administrator of a partner's estate after her death.

- Partners continue to have hospital visitation rights.

### Employment benefits

- If a partner must quit her job and relocate to accommodate her partner's job, she will be eligible to collect California unemployment benefits on the same basis as a spouse would under the same circumstances.
- If an employer has a policy permitting employees to use sick leave to care for spouses and children, AB 25 required the employer to provide equal treatment to domestic partners.
- This law required insurance companies to provide employers with coverage of employee's spouses to offer health insurance coverage for employees' domestic partner and their children on the same terms.
- If a state employee or retiree dies, her domestic partner and children of the partner will be eligible for continued health insurance coverage if the surviving partner has been enrolled in the state health

insurance plan.

- The surviving partners of deceased employees of selected California counties (San Francisco and if approved—San Mateo) will be entitled to the same benefits given to surviving spouses.

### Tax Benefits

Employer provided health insurance benefits for registered domestic partners will no longer be taxed as income by the State of California. They will continue to be taxed as income, however, by the federal government.

You can download the declaration of domestic partnership form at [www.ss.ca.gov/business/sf/sf\\_dp.htm](http://www.ss.ca.gov/business/sf/sf_dp.htm). The form can also be picked up at any local county registrar's office or at any office of the California Secretary of State. The cost of registering is \$10. The application must be signed in front of a notary public.

**Whatsuuuup!!!  
Needed! Volunteers  
to help with our Valentine's Ball. It's a great experience.  
Have fun and help out. If interested, please call 451-8034.**





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#### THE SACWN MISSION

*SACWN's mission is to provide lesbians with social activities in a safe environment, a supportive network, and resources to link our diverse community.*

#### SACWN NEWSLETTER POLICY

This newsletter is entirely dependent on volunteers. Please remember that we also have full time jobs.

In order to be included in the next newsletter, material must arrive in our mailbox or at our e-mail address by the 10th of month. We encourage submissions (e.g., Letters to the Editor, news items, photos, etc.). Please type submissions and include your name and phone number for verification. Submissions by e-mail are especially encouraged.

**FREE ADS:** This section is for selling things of a personal nature, advertising for a roommate or finding a lost love. These ads are FREE to SACWN members who are advertising for personal use (no business advertising).

**BUSINESS ADS:** Camera-ready ads are \$60, per business card size ad. Ads must be prepaid. Ads are on a 12-month/six issues per year basis. For more info, please contact Sharon at 916-487-9851.

**NOTE:** The SACWN newsletter expresses the opinions of the authors, and does not necessarily represent the opinions of the Steering Committee or the general membership. The editor reserves the right to exclude and/or edit the length of letters and articles.

**CONFIDENTIALITY:** SACWN takes the following precautions to insure the privacy of it's members:

1. The mailing list is never sold nor lent to anyone—be they other women's groups or inquiring lesbians.
2. The newsletter is always sent 1st class, rather than at the cheaper bulk rate.
3. Each newsletter is addressed to a specific subscriber, not "resident" or "household."
4. Newsletters are not sent to individual men

*~~ Women who want to participate in the operation of SACWN are encouraged to contact any of the committee coordinators listed to the left.*

#### Special Thanks...

to all those giving women who have donated of their time and efforts to make our Valentine's Dance a success. It's volunteers who keep our organization going and growing. You hold a special place in the hearts of SACWN community for your hard work.



# Special Interest Groups (SIGS) Bulletin



SACWN's SIGs are small, friendly groups of women who get together monthly (if not more often) to share activities of mutual interest. New members are always welcomed, so we encourage you to call the contact person listed to find out what activities are being planned.

If you are interested in forming a Special Interest Group (SIG), please contact Linda at 456-4859 with your ideas. You could share a favorite hobby or interest with other women.

## Rainbow Campers

Rainbow Campers, founded by the late Jayne Rountree, is a loose knit group of lesbians who get together and camp at preselected campgrounds each month, April through October.

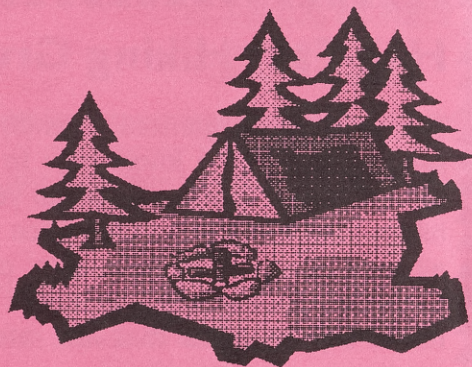
Anyone willing to be a Wagon Master or who has an idea for where to camp please call Linda at 456-4859. Destinations should be easily reached for those who work and would not be able to travel until late in the day or the next day.

### How to Attend a Trip:

1. Call the Wagoneer for the trip(s) you want to attend. She will make the group reservation up to sixty days in advance of the scheduled camp date, so call her early.
2. The Wagoneer will tell you the site fee and cancellation date. She will request that you send her the fee for the number of nights that you plan to camp.

If you decide to cancel your reservation, call the Wagoneer before

the cancellation date. Fee refunds cannot be made after the cancellation date.



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**Newcomers**  
 Are you new to SACWN, new to the area or just want to meet new people? Then the Newcomers Group is for you! We are presently looking for a coordinator for this group. If you're interested, call Linda at 456-4859.  
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## Charitable Women

CW brings women together to do charitable works for the community. Project four—April 2002, Easter Baskets.

Deeds to be done before this.

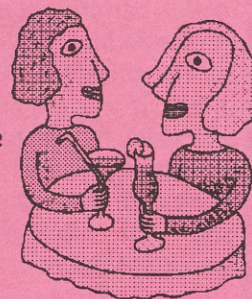
Please call Chris at 485-8451 for details and to volunteer.

## Top 10

Top 10 is a group of women over fifty and women who love women over fifty. Each month we get together for a meal at a local restaurant or for special at-home potlucks.

**February 10 (Sunday)** Meet at 5 pm at the Luau Gardens - 1931 Zinfandel in Rancho Cordova. Take Sunrise North exit, go over the overpass, left on Zinfandel and the restaurant is on the left. All last minute callers will be welcome but we need at least 25 confirmed reservations to get the private room and great price of \$12.50 for all you can eat buffet including beverage and tip. RSVP to Leta 916-408-1617.

**March 16 (Saturday)** Paula and Sharon will host the St. Patrick Day's potluck at their home at 3 pm. Bring your favorite side dish and drink. Call by March 13 to RSVP and get directions—967-0560.





(SIGS Cont'd)

## Fool House Poker Group

Feeling lucky? Then join us for a friendly game of poker the **2nd Friday of every month**. Novice players welcome. I guarantee you'll have a good time. For game time and location, call Gretchen 916-922-6287 or Mary 916-723-5269.



## Half-Fast Hiking Group

This is a well-organized, friendly group of serious hikers who know how to have fun. We are in our fourth successful year of day-hiking with hikes scheduled once per month all year long. We walk at a comfortable pace and usually average about five miles round trip on hikes that are rated easy to moderate.

Call for a calendar of next year's events and an information sheet. All newcomers will receive a warm welcome! Please join us for the time of your life! Call Linda or Julie at 731-5838:



## Women's Music

Are you interested in women's music? Do you want to support women musicians that have been involved in the women's movement for many years while having a good time? We will be going to live performances of women's music in Northern California. All are welcome to join us and enjoy the pleasures that listening to great music can bring. If you are interested in joining us or if you just want to know what performances are coming up call Pat—916-363-7535. Make sure you ask for Pat, please! You can also e-mail me at pwood314@yahoo.com



## Arts & Entertainment

From local activities such as the Second Saturday Art Walk to a show in the Bay Area, we have a variety of entertainment we have participated in. It's great fun and you can meet old friends or maybe a new friend. If you are interested in coordinating events or participating, contact Sharon at 916-487-9851. Or have the latest updates sent to you by Emailing Sharon at sharonju@macnexus.org and indicate your desire to be on the A&E Email list.

## Single's Group

We are a friendly and lively group of women who just love to have fun and hope you will join us.

If you or someone you know is interested in coordinating the Single's Group, please contact Linda, the Special Interest Groups coordinator, at 456-4859.

## Non-Jock Sports Group

Looking for flag football players and cheerleaders. Unable to run, throw a football, tie your shoe? That's what we're looking for!

Call Chris at 451-8451.

## Garden Club

The Garden Club shares information, plantings, takes landscape tours, and much more. If you're interested, please e-mail Glenda at gpfgarden@cs.com or call Glenda 916-454-0246. We are taking a break from formal activities until Spring.



## SACWN Slashes Advertising Rate

SACWN has reduced the cost of business ads to **\$60 per year.**

Don't miss out on the best deal in town!

Call 916 451-8034 and let us advertise your business to our membership.

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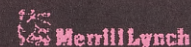
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## Making a Case for Community History

*From a article by the Steering Committee of Making a Case for Community History*

Under the auspices of Sacramento's Lavender Library [(916) 492-0558], Archives and Cultural Exchange, *Making a Case for Community History* was formed by a group of citizens to work with local organizations, clubs and groups to develop professional exhibits that document (and brag about) our heritage, our accomplishments, and our proud place in this city's history.

In June of 2002, a preview exhibit will be placed in strategic venues, such as the Capitol and local museums, to tell the city to watch for the October 2002 formal display cases filled with memorabilia of our history and its impact on the greater Sacramento Society.

Please contact *Making a Case for Community History* to become involved in this extraordinary project or to make a tax-deductible contribution.

Bring us your memories or your skill (or loan us some of those doo-dads you may have saved over the years!). We'd love to work with you on this annual project — and especially this year, for the initial display!

Steering Committee: Sam Catalano, Chair, CatalanoSM@aol.com

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E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ NEW☐ RENEWING

Waiver: I am aware that certain risks or injuries could occur arising from my participation in SACWN, Inc. events and/or special interest groups. In consideration of the right to participate in such events, some of which may involve strenuous activity (i.e. hiking, golfing, skiing, cycling, etc.), I hereby assume all risks and will hold SACWN, Inc. and its members harmless from all liability which may arise in connection with these activities.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)\_\_\_\_\_  
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\$12.00

*Rates are per household, per year and will be prorated based on the month in which you subscribe. The subscription year is February through January.*

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## Volunteer Form

**Can you volunteer?** We need help in the following areas:

**NEWSLETTER**☐ Writers☐ Proofreaders & Editors☐ Layout & Graphics**ACTIVITIES:**☐ Event Organizers☐ Assistants☐ Planners☐ Decorations☐ Publicity☐ Dates

## Comments, Suggestions, Viewpoints

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Want to contact us but don't want to write? SACWN has voice mail and e-mail! Call us at (916) 451-8034 and leave a message. We will respond as soon as possible. OR you can send us e-mail at:  
SACWN1@aol.com





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